

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## COUNTRY ARTS SA WELCOMES NEW CHAIR OF BOARD

Country Arts SA welcomes Michael Luchich as the new Chair of its Board of Directors following the departure of Lew Owens after two full terms in the position.

Alongside his strong interest and involvement in the arts, Mr Luchich will bring extensive experience to Country Arts SA from his diverse industry background and executive leadership positions, including the State Director of Telstra, a position he held for 15 years until 2015. He is currently State Director of Dimension Data Australia.

*“We are very excited about Michael’s appointment to the Board”* said Steve Saffell, Country Arts SA’s Chief Executive Officer.

*“He has executive experience across a diverse range of industries in driving business performance, operational excellence, customer service, sales and marketing. This combined with experience in data and telecommunications will be a significant asset for Country Arts SA as we look for new ways to grow our organisation and take it into the future.”*

Alongside his senior executive roles, Mr Luchich has also served on a number of boards in the not-for-profit sector, including his role as Chair of the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation and has a strong knowledge of Board procedures, governance and regulatory compliance reporting.

Mr Luchich is deeply committed to the arts and believes it is what binds communities together in all forms and builds collaboration at the core of society.

*“Being involved in all aspects of the arts is critically important in forming the fabric of society, as arts and culture are at the heart of community life in regional and rural sectors across Australia,”* said Mr Luchich.

*“The arts have wide-ranging and enormous benefits for all ages and demographics – in particular students. There’s a strong relationship between arts or cultural engagement and educational attainment, with evidence that young people who are involved in the arts have higher school motivation and literacy, greater engagement in class, good self-esteem, and life satisfaction.”*

Mr Luchich began in the position for an initial period of three years on 18 February, 2016.

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